



AWARENESS BULLETIN

The National Explosives Task Force (NETF) coordinates rapid integration of explosives expertise with Intelligence and Law Enforcement information to support operational activities. Products are peer-reviewed by explosives experts from participating agencies.

PROPANE TANKS USED IN CAR EXPLOSION

**Palmdale, California
May 11, 2020**

(U//LES) On 11 May 2020, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Special Enforcement Bureau, Arson and Explosives Detail responded to a post blast scene at a remote location in Palmdale, CA. Upon arrival, LASD found a car with extensive explosive damage along with two propane tanks. According to the reports by LASD, the subject drove a rented Nissan Sentra to the blast location in a remote area in Palmdale with the express intent of committing suicide by asphyxiation by opening two, 15-pound propane tanks located in the back seat of the vehicle.

(U//LES) According to LASD, a section of hose with a compatible connector was attached to the propane tanks to circumvent integrated safety features which do not allow the propane to flow without being connected. The subject opened the tanks and lost consciousness within an undetermined amount of time. The subject regained consciousness and, upon realizing the suicide attempt failed, proceeded to ignite the released propane vapors with a disposable lighter resulting in an explosion.



(U//LES) Figure 1: Condition of the back of the vehicle.
(Source: LASD)



(U//LES) Figure 2: Condition of the roof and rear view window of the vehicle. (Source: LASD)

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(U//LES) Figure 3: Condition of the back of the vehicle. (Source: LASD)



(U//LES) Figure 4: Condition of the left side of the vehicle. (Source: LASD)



(U//LES) Figure 5: Condition of the right side of the vehicle. (Source: LASD)

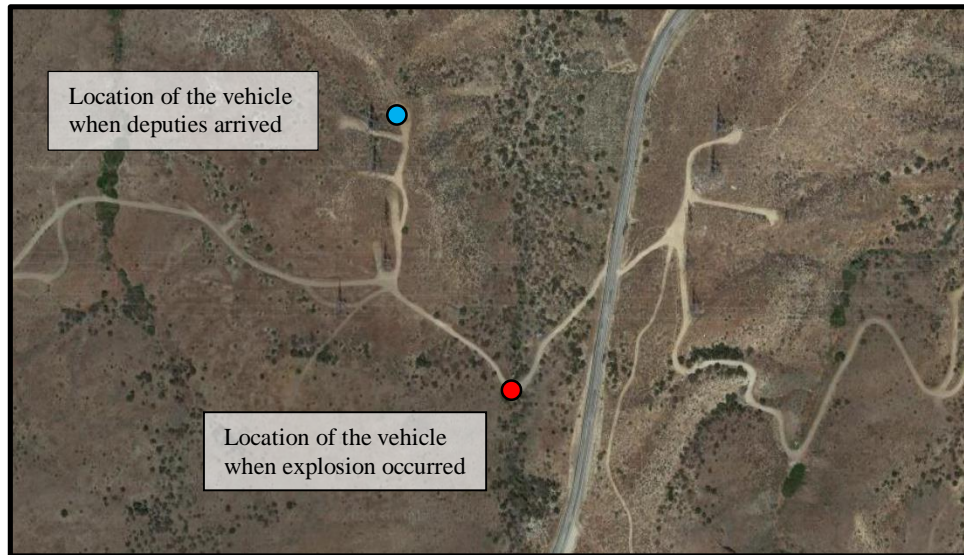


(U//LES) Figure 6: Condition of the propane tanks. (Source: LASD)

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(U//LES) The subject survived the explosion and successfully started the vehicle with the intent of driving off what he believed to be a nearby cliff. The vehicle stalled approximately 200 meters from the original incident location at which point the subject moved by foot to a nearby road. The subject was found and reported by a passerby. He was transported to a medical facility where he received treatment for minor injuries.



(U//LES) Figure 7: Notable locations of the vehicle during the incident. (Source: LASD)

(U//LES) The recovered items have not been formally examined by a laboratory and final results may differ from the raw information contained in this Awareness Bulletin.

(U//LES) Information in this Awareness Bulletin was obtained from law enforcement personnel reporting. Information contained in this report was coordinated with FBI Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

For further information or to report similar incidents, contact the NETF at NETF@fbi.gov.

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